

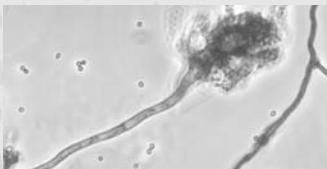
- Scientific Meeting of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, Los Angeles, California, April 9–12, 2005. Abstract 283. Alexandria (VA): Slack Inc.; 2005.
17. Kralovic SM, Danko LH, Simbartl MS, Roselle GA. *Clostridium difficile* infection in VA medical centers nationwide. Proceedings of the 15th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, Los Angeles, California, April 9–12, 2005. Abstract 284. Alexandria (VA): Slack Inc.; 2005.
 18. Microbiology Resource Committee, College of American Pathologists. Bacterial antigen detection (SE-D-1998 through SE-D-2003) participant surveys. Northfield (IL): College of American Pathologists; 2005 [cited 2006 Jan 22]. Available from <http://www.cap.org>
 19. Delmee M, Van Broeck J, Simon A, Janssens M, Avesani V. Laboratory diagnosis of *Clostridium difficile*–associated diarrhea: a plea for culture. *J Med Microbiol*. 2005; 54(Pt 2):187–91.
 20. Johnson S, Kent SA, O’Leary KJ, Merigan MM, Sambol SP, Peterson LR, et al. Fatal pseudomembranous colitis associated with a variant *Clostridium difficile* strain not detected by toxin A immunoassay. *Ann Intern Med*. 2001;135:434–8.
 21. Barbut F, Lalande V, Burghoffer B, Thien HV, Grimpel E, Petit J-C. Prevalence and genetic characterization of toxin A variant strains of *Clostridium difficile* among adults and children with diarrhea in France. *J Clin Microbiol*. 2002;2079–83.
 22. Kuehnert MJ, Hill HA, Kupronis BA, Tokars JI, Solomon SL, Jernigan DB. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*–related hospitalizations, United States. *Emerg Infect Dis*. 2005;11:868–72.
 23. Panlilio AL, Culver DH, Gaynes RP et al. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in US hospitals, 1975–1991. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 1992;13:582–6.
 24. Yip C, Loeb M, Salama S, Moss L, Olde J. Quinolone use as a risk factor for nosocomial *Clostridium difficile*–associated diarrhea. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 2001;22:572–5.
 25. McCusker ME, Harris AD, Perencevich E, Roghmann MC. Fluoroquinolone use and *Clostridium difficile*–associated diarrhea. *Emerg Infect Dis*. 2003;9:730–3.
 26. Boyce JM, Pittet D. Guideline for hand hygiene in health-care settings: recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 2002;23(12 Suppl):S3–40.
 27. Samore M, Killgore G, Johnson S, Goodman R, Shim J, Venkataraman L, et al. Multicenter typing comparison of sporadic and outbreak *Clostridium difficile* isolates from geographically diverse hospitals. *J Infect Dis*. 1997;176:1233–8.
 28. McDonald LC, Killgore GE, Thompson A, Owens RC, Kazakova SV, Sambol SP, et al. Emergence of an epidemic, toxin gene variant strain of *Clostridium difficile* responsible for outbreaks in the United States between 2000 and 2004. *N Engl J Med*. 2005;353:2433–41.
 29. McDonald LC. *Clostridium difficile*: responding to a new threat from an old enemy. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 2005;26:672–5.
 30. Warny M, Pepin J, Fang A, Killgore G, Thompson A, Brazier J, et al. Toxin production by an emerging strain of *Clostridium difficile* associated with outbreaks of severe disease in North America and Europe. *Lancet*. 2005;366:1079–84.
 31. Gurian L, Ward TT, Katon RM. Possible foodborne transmission in a case of pseudomembranous colitis due to *Clostridium difficile*: influence of gastrointestinal secretions on *Clostridium difficile* infection. *Gastroenterology*. 1982;83:465–9.
 32. Cunningham R, Dale B, Undy B, Gaunt N. Proton pump inhibitors as a risk factor for *Clostridium difficile* diarrhoea. *J Hosp Infect*. 2003;54:243–5.
 33. Sambol SP, Merrigan MM, Tang JK, Johnson S, Gerding DN. Colonization for the prevention of *Clostridium difficile* disease in hamsters. *J Infect Dis*. 2002;186:1781–9.
 34. Shim JK, Johnson S, Samore MH, Bliss DZ, Gerding DN. Primary symptomless colonisation by *Clostridium difficile* and decreased risk of subsequent diarrhoea. *Lancet* 1998;351:633–6.
 35. Wilcox MH. Descriptive study of intravenous immunoglobulin for the treatment of recurrent *Clostridium difficile* diarrhoea. *J Antimicrob Chemother*. 2004;53:882–4.
 36. Kyne L, Warny M, Qamar A, Kelly CP. Asymptomatic carriage of *Clostridium difficile* and serum levels of IgG antibody against toxin A. *N Engl J Med*. 2000;342:390–7.
 37. Giannasca PJ, Warny M. Active and passive immunization against *Clostridium difficile* diarrhea and colitis. *Vaccine*. 2004;22:848–56.
 38. Garner JS. Guideline for isolation precautions in hospitals. The Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 1996;17:53–80.

Address for correspondence: L. Clifford McDonald, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd NE, Mailstop A35, Atlanta, Georgia 30333, USA; fax: 404-639-2647; email: CMcDonald1@cdc.gov

etymologia

Aspergillus

[as"pər-jil'əs]



Conidiophore of *Aspergillus fumigatus*.
Image courtesy of Libero Ajello, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Courtesy of Davide Borghonovo

Genus of filamentous, ubiquitous fungi, commonly isolated from soil, plant debris, and indoor air. *Aspergillus* was first described in 1729 by Pier Antonio Micheli, an Italian priest and biologist who was the first person to attempt the scientific study of fungi. Micheli opposed the idea of "spontaneous generation" by showing that fungal spores grown on a medium would produce the same kind of fungus. The shape of *Aspergillus* reminded him of an aspergillum (from the Latin *aspergere*, "to scatter"), a device used for sprinkling holy water during a liturgical service.

Sources: Dorland's illustrated medical dictionary. 30th ed. Philadelphia: Saunders; 2003 and the Illinois Mycological Association, available from <http://www.ilmyco.gen.chicago.il.us/>